

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. CON. RES. 83

Promoting the establishment of a democracy caucus within the United Nations.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 18, 2003

Mr. BIDEN submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Promoting the establishment of a democracy caucus within the United Nations.

Whereas a survey conducted by Freedom House in 2003, entitled “Freedom in the World”, found that of the 192 governments of nations of the world, 121 (or 63 percent) of such governments have an electoral democracy form of government;

Whereas, the Community of Democracies, an association of democratic nations committed to promoting democratic principles and practices, held its First Ministerial Conference in Warsaw, Poland, in June 2000;

Whereas, in a speech at that Conference, Kofi Annan, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, stated that “when the United Nations can truly call itself a community of democracies, the [United Nations] Charter’s noble

ideals of protecting human rights and promoting ‘social progress in larger freedoms’ will have been brought much closer”, that “democratically governed states rarely if ever make war on one another”, and that “in this era of intra-state wars, is the fact that democratic governance—by protecting minorities, encouraging pluralism, and upholding the rule of law—can channel internal dissent peacefully, and thus help avert civil wars”;

Whereas a report by an Independent Task Force cosponsored by the Council on Foreign Relations and Freedom House in 2002, entitled “Enhancing U.S. Leadership at the United Nations”, concluded that “the United States is frequently outmaneuvered and outmatched at the [United Nations]” because the 115 members of the nonaligned movement “cooperate on substantive and procedural votes, binding the organization’s many democratic nations to the objectives and blocking tactics of its remaining tyrannies”;

Whereas, at the First Ministerial Conference of the Community of Democracies, the representatives of the participating governments agreed to “collaborate on democracy-related issues in existing international and regional institutions, forming coalitions and caucuses to support resolutions and other international activities aimed at the promotion of democratic governance”; and

Whereas that agreement was reaffirmed at the Second Ministerial Conference of the Community of Democracies in Seoul, Korea, in November 2002: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
- 2 *concurring),*

1 **SECTION 1. PROMOTION OF A DEMOCRACY CAUCUS WITH-**
2 **IN THE UNITED NATIONS.**

3 Congress urges the President to instruct any rep-
4 resentative of the United States to a body of the United
5 Nations to use the voice and vote of the United States
6 to seek to establish a democracy caucus within the United
7 Nations as described in this Resolution.

8 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE OF THE DEMOCRACY CAUCUS.**

9 The purpose of the democracy caucus referred to in
10 section 1 should be to advance the interests of the United
11 States and other nations that are committed to promoting
12 democratic norms and practices by—

13 (1) supporting common objectives, including
14 bolstering democracy and democratic principles, ad-
15 vancing human rights, and fighting terrorism in ac-
16 cordance with the rule of law;

17 (2) forging common positions on matters of
18 concern that are brought before the United Nations
19 or any of the bodies of the United Nations;

20 (3) working within and across regional lines to
21 promote the positions of the democracy caucus;

22 (4) encouraging democratic states to assume
23 leadership positions in the bodies of the United Na-
24 tions; and

25 (5) advocating that states that permit gross vio-
26 lations of human rights, sponsor terrorist activities,

1 or that are the subject of sanctions imposed by the
 2 United Nations Security Council are not elected—

3 (A) to leadership positions in the United
 4 Nations General Assembly; or

5 (B) to membership or leadership positions
 6 in the Commission on Human Rights, the Secu-
 7 rity Council, or any other body of the United
 8 Nations.

9 **SEC. 3. CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE DEMOCRACY**
 10 **CAUCUS.**

11 Participation in the democracy caucus referred to in
 12 section 1 should be limited to countries that—

13 (1) are qualified to participate in the Commu-
 14 nity of Democracies, an association of democratic
 15 nations committed to promoting democratic prin-
 16 ciples and practices; and

17 (2) have demonstrated a commitment—

18 (A) to the core democratic principles and
 19 practices set out in the Final Warsaw Declara-
 20 tion of the Community of Democracies, adopted
 21 at Warsaw June 27, 2000; and

22 (B) to the democratic principles set forth
 23 in—

24 (i) the United Nations Charter;

- 1 (ii) the Universal Declaration of
2 Human Rights; and
3 (iii) the International Covenant on
4 Civil and Political Rights.

5 **SEC. 4. ANNUAL MEETING.**

6 The members of the democracy caucus referred to in
7 section 1 should hold a ministerial-level meeting at least
8 once each year to coordinate policies and positions of the
9 caucus.

○